

Choose your Partner Carefully!

Parents should pay close attention to the safety of their children when dating. It is important for parents to be aware of type of person who is around their child. Parents should answer the following questions about their partner in order to prevent dangerous situations. Does he call your child bad names or put him down? Does he think that it is funny to scare your child? How does he treat other children? Does he dictate when you and your child can visit other family members? Does he have a criminal history?

There are other behaviors that may also indicate a potential risk to your child. For Example, if your partner shows anger or impatience toward your child or pretends that you are to blame if he hurts your child. Parents should also be aware if a partner makes your child scared by using guns, knives, or other weapons. If you are unsure about your child's safety with your partner, trust your instincts.

Far too often we see stories in the news of children who have suffered abuse at the hands of the parent's partner. Most incidents involve the mother's boyfriend, who is not the biological father to the child. Some of these cases have tragic endings. The Ohio Department of Health reports that in 28% of the cases involving a child fatality from child abuse, the mother's boyfriend was the perpetrator. Choose your partner carefully and never leave your child with a person that you do not trust.